IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 25-45 and 47-51 and 53 without prejudice to their consideration in a continuing application.

1. to 53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) A method of determining a property of a liquid using a sensing element comprising:

providing a flexible element having a first end and a second end and being movable from a first configuration to a second configuration via bending of said flexible element, said flexible element comprising an actuating portion arranged to move said flexible element between said first configuration and said second configuration, the flexible element having a length from the first end to the second end, the actuating portion being distributed along the length, a first section of the actuating portion being proximate the first end, and a second section of the actuating portion being proximate the second end;

inducing movement in said flexible element between said first configuration and said second configuration by applying a heat signal to said flexible element, the movement of the second end of the flexible element between said first and second configurations being at least 30μm;

receiving a signal from said sensing element, said signal being indicative of the induced movement of the flexible element within the liquid; and

processing said signal to determine a value indicative of at least one property of the liquid.

55. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, wherein said signal is processed to determine a value indicative of at least one property of a group comprising viscosity, temperature, flow rate and shear rate.

56. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 55, further comprising:

determining a rate of change of movement of said flexible element, by monitoring a change in the received signal with time; and

determining a value indicative of the viscosity of the liquid from said rate of change of movement.

57. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 55, further comprising:

determining an amplitude of movement of said flexible element from said received signal for a given applied heat signal; and

determining a value indicative of the viscosity of the liquid from said amplitude.

58. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 55, further comprising:

determining a change in said movement of said flexible element; and

determining a value indicative of a flow rate of the liquid from said change in movement, said change in movement being due to flow of the liquid against said flexible element.

59. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 58, further comprising: determining a value indicative of a shear rate of the liquid by determination of the flow rate at a plurality of locations within the liquid.

60. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, wherein said actuating portion of said flexible element comprises a laminate of at least two layers, each layer having a different coefficient of thermal expansion, and wherein, prior to induction of movement by application of the heat signal, a value indicative of the temperature of the liquid is determined.

61. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, wherein the device comprises a plurality of flexible elements, such that the plurality of flexible elements may be used to determine a value indicative of at least one property of the liquid in a plurality of locations.

62. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, wherein the device comprises a plurality of flexible elements, at least one of the plurality being used to cause a flow within the liquid, and at least one of the plurality being used to determine a value indicative of at least one property of the liquid.

63. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, further comprising holding the flexible element in at least one of said two configurations by a magnetic force.

64. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, further comprising holding the flexible element in at least one of said two configurations by an electrostatic force.

65. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, wherein said received signal is indicative of a maximum deflection of the flexible element, said signal being processed to determine the viscosity of the liquid.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the length of the flexible element from the first end to the second end is between 100μm and 1mm.

67. (Previously Presented) A device for detecting a property of a liquid comprising:

a body region;

a flexible element having a first end and a second end, said first end being fixedly located on said body region, said flexible element being arranged to move from at least a first configuration to a second configuration via bending of said flexible element, the second end of the flexible element moving at least 30μm between said first and second configurations;

said flexible element including a laminate of at least two layers and an actuating portion arranged to move said flexible element between said first configuration and said second configuration, the actuating portion being provided by at least a first layer of said laminate having a different coefficient of thermal expansion from a second layer of said

laminate such that a change in temperature of said flexible element moves the flexible element from said first configuration to said second configuration;

said flexible element further including a heating element for heating at least said flexible element and providing a change in temperature;

a movement detector arranged to detect said movement of said flexible element, and to provide a signal indicative of a property of a liquid in which the flexible element is immersed; and

wherein said flexible element has a length from the first end to the second end, and said actuating portion is distributed along the length, a first section of said actuating portion being proximate the first end, and a second section of said actuating portion being proximate the second end.

68. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 67, wherein said movement detector comprises a piezoresistive element located on said flexible element arranged such that the electrical resistance of the piezoresistive element changes due to movement of said flexible element.

69. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 67, further comprising latching means arranged to hold the flexible element in at least one of said two configurations.

70. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 67, wherein said movement detector comprises an electromagnetic radiation source arranged to direct

radiation towards said element, and an electromagnetic radiation detector arranged to detect electromagnetic radiation at least one of: reflected from, transmitted through, refracted from or diffracted by said flexible element.

71. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 67, wherein at least one of the first and second layers of said laminate comprises a polymer.

72. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 71, wherein at least one of the first and second layers of said laminate comprises a material selected from a group consisting of polyimides, polyamides and acrylic polymers.

73. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 67, wherein the second layer of said laminate comprises a metal.

74. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 73, wherein the metal is selected from a group consisting of gold or aluminium.

75. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 67, wherein the length of the flexible element from the first end to the second end is between 100μm and 1mm, and wherein the distance between the second end of the flexible element in said first configuration and the second end of the flexible element in said second configuration is between 30μm and 650μm.

76. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 67, wherein the device comprises a plurality of flexible elements.

77. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 76, wherein the plurality of flexible elements are arranged in a first row and a second row, each row comprising at least one flexible element, the flexible elements being arranged such that the at least one flexible element of the first row extends in opposition to the at least one flexible element of the second row.

78. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 77, wherein the plurality of flexible elements are interdigitated.

79. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 39, wherein said piezoresistive element is located on the flexible element at a position remote from the body region.

80. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 68, wherein said piezoresistive element is formed as a layer of the laminate of said flexible element.